

Practitioner's Docket No. K-1786**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Ojanen, Randall W.
 Application No.: 09 / 838,348 Group No.: 3673
 Filed: 04/19/2001 Examiner: Singh, Sunil
 For: ROTATABLE CUTTING Reexamination control No.:
 TOOL HAVING RETAINER WITH DIMPLES

Mail Stop Appeal Brief—Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF
(PATENT APPLICATION OR EX PARTE REEXAMINATION—
37 C.F.R. § 41.37)

NOTE: The phrase "the date on which" an "appeal was taken" in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(ii) (which provides an adjustment of patent term if there is a delay on the part of the Office to respond within 4 months after an "appeal was taken") means the date on which an appeal brief under § 1.192 (and not a notice of appeal) was filed. Compliance with § 41.37 requires that: 1. the appeal brief fee (§ 41.20(b)(2)) be paid (§ 41.37(a)(2)); and 2. the appeal brief complies with §§ 41.73(c)(i)-(x). See Notice of September 18, 2000, 65 Fed. Reg. 56366, 56385-56387 (Comment 38).

1. Transmitted herewith is the APPEAL BRIEF in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on June 8, 2007

NOTE: Appellant must file a brief under this section within two months from the date of filing the notice of appeal under § 41.31. 37 CFR 41.(a)(1). The brief is no longer required in triplicate. The former alternative time for filing a brief (within the time allowed for reply to the action from which the appeal was taken)

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Date: August 8, 2007

Rhonda L. Sanders

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* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

has been removed. Appellant must file within two months from the notice of appeal. See Notice of August 12, 2004, 69 FR 49960, 49962.

2. STATUS OF APPLICANT

This application is on behalf of

☒ other than a small entity.

☐ a small entity.

A statement:

☐ is attached.

☐ was already filed.

3. FEE FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is:

☐ small entity \$250.00

☒ other than a small entity \$500.00

Appeal Brief fee due \$ 500.00

4. EXTENSION OF TERM

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(b) ". . . an applicant shall be deemed to have failed to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude processing or examination of an application for the cumulative total of any periods of time in excess of three months that are taken to reply to any notice or action by the Office making any rejection, objection, argument, or other request, measuring such three-month period from the date the notice or action was mailed or given to the applicant, in which case the period of adjustment set forth in § 1.703 shall be reduced by the number of days, if any, beginning on the day after the date that is three months after the date of mailing or transmission of the Office communication notifying the applicant of the rejection, objection, argument, or other request and ending on the date the reply was filed. The period, or shortened statutory period, for reply that is set in the Office action or notice has no effect on the three-month period set forth in this paragraph."

NOTE: The time periods set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(a) are subject to the provision of § 1.136 for patent applications. 37 C.F.R. § 1.191(d). See also Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

NOTE: As the two-month period set in § 1.192(a) for filing an appeal brief is not subject to the six-month maximum period specified in 35 U.S.C. § 133, the period for filing an appeal brief may be extended up to seven months. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, at 53,158; 1203 O.G. 63, at 84 (Oct. 10, 1997).

☒ The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 apply.

WARNING: The provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 do not apply in an *ex parte* reexamination. Any requests for extension must be made pursuant to 37 CFR 1.550(c).

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a) ☐ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (fees: 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)-(5)) for the total number of months checked below:

| Extension (months) | Fee for other than small entity | Fee for small entity |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> one month | \$ 120.00 | \$ 60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> two months | \$ 450.00 | \$ 225.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> three months | \$ 1,020.00 | \$ 510.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> four months | \$ 1,590.00 | \$ 795.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> five months | \$ 2,160.00 | \$1,080.00 |

Fee: \$ _____

(Transmittal of Appeal Brief [9-6.1]—page 2 of 5)

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

- ☐ An extension for _____ months has already been secured, and the fee paid therefor of \$ _____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ _____

or

- (b) ☒ Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

5. TOTAL FEE DUE

The total fee due is:

Appeal brief fee \$ 500.00

Extension fee (if any) \$ _____

TOTAL FEE DUE \$ 500.00

6. FEE PAYMENT

- ☒ Attached is a ☒ check ☐ money order in the amount of \$ 500.00
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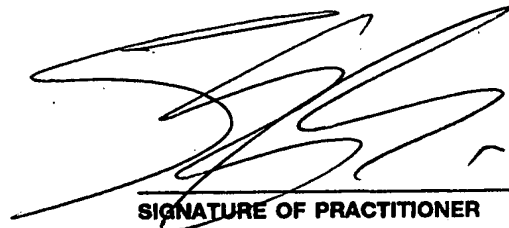
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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Stephen T. Belsheim

(type or print name of practitioner)

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(Transmittal of Appeal Brief [9-6.1]—page 4 of 5)

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

NOTE: Papers filed with the Board, if not previously served, must be served simultaneously on every opposing party except as the Board expressly directs. If a party is represented by counsel, service must be on counsel. Service must be by EXPRESS MAIL® or by means at least as fast and reliable as EXPRESS MAIL®. Electronic service is not permitted without Board authorization. (37 CFR 41.106(e))

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NOTE: A certificate made by a person other than a registered patent practitioner must be in the form of an affidavit. (37 CFR 41.106(f)(4))

I hereby declare that all statement made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature of Practitioner

(type of print name of practitioner)

Address

Signature of person making declaration

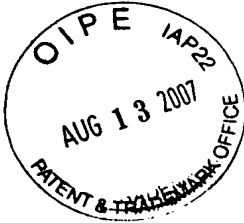
(type or print name of person making declaration)

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K-1786
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES


In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348) Group Art Unit 3673
Filed: April 19, 2001)
For: ROTATABLE CUTTING TOOL) Examiner: Singh, Sunil
HAVING RETAINER WITH DIMPLES)

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Date: August 8, 2007

Signature: 
Rhonda L. Sanders

Type or Print Name of Person Certifying

August 8, 2007

Sir: APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with 37 CFR §41.37(a)(1), this Appeal Brief is being filed within two (2) months of the filing of the Notice of Appeal on June 8, 2007. In compliance with 37 CFR §41.37(a)(2), the appropriate fee accompanies this paper per the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF. Per the requirement of 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1), this Appeal Brief contains the items under the appropriate headings called out in 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(i) through 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(x).

-2-

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(i), Kennametal Inc. of Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650 United States of America, the assignee of the present patent application, is the real party in interest.

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(ii), there are no related appeals and interferences. However, appellant points out the following in this patent application:

- Obviously, the Board did not ever render a decision in that first appeal.

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(iii), the status of the claims in the patent application is set forth as follows: (a) claims 1-14, 18-28, 31, 35, and 41-42 are cancelled, and (b) claims 15-17, 29, 30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 are rejected and are under appeal.

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(iv), appellant states the following:

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-3-

(a) on May 21, 2007, appellant filed a Response to Final Office Action of February 8, 2007 by which appellant amended claims 16, 30, 34 and 38 to overcome objections thereto; and

(b) on June 11, 2007, the Primary Examiner mailed an Advisory Action by which the Primary Examiner entered the Response of May 21, 2007 into the prosecution file (see Item 7(b) of the Advisory Action) so that claims 15-17, 29, 30, 32-34, 36-40, and 43-47 still stand rejected.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

To satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(v), a summary of claimed subject matter is set forth below.

There are two fundamental aspects of the claimed invention. The first is a cutting tool assembly (10) that essentially comprises a cutting tool (12) and a retainer (40) for use therewith as set forth in claims 15-17, 32-34 and 39 wherein claims 15 and 39 are the independent claims. The second is a retainer (40), which is for use in conjunction with a cutting tool, as set forth in claims 29-30, 36-38, 40 and 43-47 wherein claims 29, 40 and 43 are the independent claims.

In the context of the cutting tool assembly, the claimed invention is a cutting tool assembly (10) for rotatable retention within a bore (20) of a bit holder (18) wherein the bore (20) includes a groove (34). The assembly (10) includes a cutting tool (12) and a retainer sleeve (40) carried by the cutting tool (12). The retainer (40) has at least one (or in the case of claims 16 and 34 as plurality of) radially outward projecting dimple (claim 15) (46), which can be semi-spherical (claim 17), or protruding surface (claim 39) that is received within the groove (34). The retainer (40) has a cylindrical circumference and a thickness dimension.

In the case of claim 15, the amount of radial projection of the dimple (46) beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer (40) is between a minimum equal to about 15

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-4-

percent of the thickness dimension of the retainer (40) so as to provide sufficient holding force to rotatably retain the cutting tool (12) within the bore (20) during operation and a maximum equal to about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of the retainer (40) so as to provide for a maximum force to allow the removal of the cutting tool (12) from the bore (20) without the necessity of excessive force. In the case of claim 39, the amount of radial projection of the protruding surface (46) beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer (40) is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of the retainer (40).

In the context of the retainer (40), the retainer (40) is for use in conjunction with a cutting tool (12). The retainer (40) comprises a retainer sleeve (40) that is carried by the cutting tool (12) and has at least one, or in the case of claim 38 a plurality of or in the case of claim 43 at least two, radially outward projecting dimple(s) (46) (claim 39) or a radially outward protruding surface (46) (claim 40).

The retainer (40) has a cylindrical circumference and a thickness dimension.

The retainer (40) has an endface and a bottom end, wherein a slit (42) extends from the bottom end to the endface (claims 46 and 47).

The amount of radial projection of the dimple, which claims 29 and 43 recite, (or the protruding surface, which claim 40 recites) (46) beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer (40) is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of the retainer (40).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(vi), a concise statement of the grounds for rejection as presented in the Final Office Action of February 8, 2007 to be reviewed on appeal are as follows:

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-5-

(1) the rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652 to Sollami (see Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the February 8, 2007 final Office Action);

(2) the rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652 to Sollami because of the alleged basis that, "... where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art ..." citing *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (see Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the February 8, 2007 final Office Action);

(3) the rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652 to Sollami because of the alleged basis that, "... discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art ..." citing *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980) (see Paragraphs 4 and 6 of the February 8, 2007 final Office Action); and

(4) the rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652 to Sollami because of the alleged basis that, "... [A] change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art ..." citing *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955) (see Paragraphs 4 and 7 of the February 8, 2007 final Office Action).

ARGUMENT

Introduction

To satisfy the requirement under 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(vii), appellant's contentions as to each ground of rejection are set forth below.

-6-

In this regard, claim 15, from which claims 16-17 depend, reads [in part and emphasis added]:

Claim 29, from which claims 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37 and 38 depend, reads [in part and emphasis added]:

Claim 39 reads [in part and emphasis added]:

Claim 40 reads [in part and emphasis added]:

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-7-

... the amount of radial projection of said protruding surface beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer sleeve is **between about 15 percent and about 30 percent** of the thickness dimension of said retainer sleeve.

Claim 43, from which claims 44-47 depend, reads [in part and emphasis added]:

... the amount of radial projection of each one of said at least two dimples beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer sleeve is **between about 15 percent and about 30 percent** of the thickness dimension of said retainer sleeve, ...

Appellant disagrees with the Primary Examiner for several reasons. First, the Primary Examiner's measurement of the radial projection of the dimple in FIG. 15 of the '652 Sollami Patent by the Primary Examiner is wrong. In actuality, the radial projection is greater than the 15-30% of the claims. Second, FIG. 15 of the '652 Sollami Patent has an inherent flaw (i.e., the protrusions (31) are not in cross-section while the rest of the retainer is in cross-section) that makes it inappropriate to determine the actual radial projection of the dimples. Third, the Primary Examiner bases the obviousness rejections on hindsight wherein the cited case decisions are inapplicable to this set of facts.

The Rejection of Claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47
under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the '652 Sollami Patent

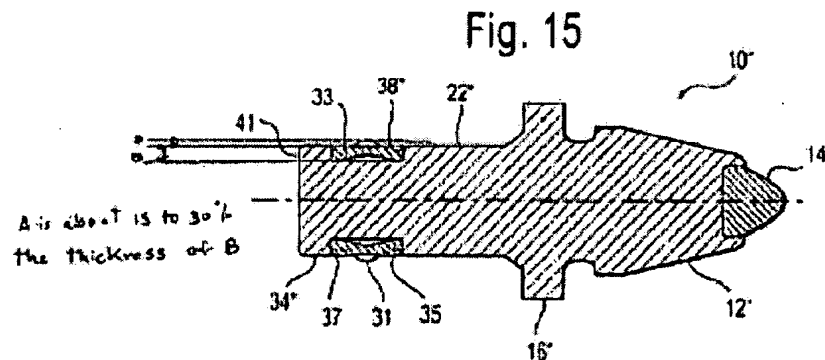
Statement of the Rejection

Per Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the February 8, 2007 final Office Action, the Primary Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by the '652 Sollami patent. In short, the Examiner stated that all of the limitations of the claims exist in the '652 Sollami Patent, and in doing so, referred to a marked-up copy of FIG. 15 of the '652 Sollami Patent. A reproduction of the Examiner's

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-8-



attachment is set forth above.

Appellant disagrees with the Primary Examiner's position because the claims call for the dimples to protrude from the retainer surface to a much lesser extent (i.e., 15-30%) than in the '652 Sollami Patent, as well as all of the prior art applied at one time or another during this prosecution¹.

To best understand the strength of appellant's argument, there must be an appreciation that the extent the dimple protrudes from the retainer surface is a meaningful feature of the invention that provides a meaningful advantage. At page 10, line 34 through page 11, line 13, appellant recognizes that the prior art tools with the larger dimples (e.g., see U.S. Patent No. 4,484,783 to Emmerich and U.S. Patent No. 3,519,309 to Engle et al.) often become difficult to remove because dirt and debris penetrate the clearances between the shank, the retainer and the bit holder bore. The dirt and debris then accumulate in the shank annular groove. At page 11, lines 10-13, the present patent application reads:

¹ For example, in the Office Action of July 26, 2004, the Primary Examiner applied thirteen different patents against the claims.

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-9-

“This debris and dirt interferes with the inward radial play of the radially protruding surfaces, making the tools very difficult and sometimes impossible to remove.”

In light of the larger size of the protrusions in the retainers of the ‘783 Emmerich Patent and the ‘309 Engle et al. Patent, a significant amount of inward radial play is necessary to retract the protrusions to remove the retainer. If dirt and debris penetrate the volume between the retainer and the groove in the shank of the tool so the retainer is unable to contract in the radial inward direction a sufficient distance, one cannot remove the tools without shearing off the protrusions. This is contrast to the present invention that:

... includes protruding dimples that are designed to require no radial play and, therefore, do not suffer from the same drawback as the prior art. ...

See page 11, lines 14-17.

The reason the dimples of the present invention do not require inward radial play to be removed is because they extend a smaller distance away from the surface of the retainer. This is a meaningful advantage over the prior art that includes tools like disclosed in the ‘652 Sollami Patent that have a retainer with the larger protrusions or dimples.

In addressing the numerical range as set forth in the claims, the Examiner used the ‘652 Sollami Patent and wrote, “... the amount of radial projection of said protruding surface beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of said retainer (see attached marked up Fig. 15).” See page 3 of the Final Office Action of February 8, 2007. The Primary Examiner is in error for two basic reasons.

First, the radial projection of the dimples of the retainer in FIG. 15 of the ‘652 Sollami Patent is much greater than the claim recitation of 15-30%. In the October 5, 2005 Appeal Brief in this patent application and using Appeal Exhibit 4 therefrom as support, appellant argued that the protrusion projected in the radial outward direction a distance equal to about 88.9% of the thickness of the retainer. While applicant does not retract that

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-10-

argument, applicant points out that more recent measurements using an enlarged (200%) copy of FIG. 15 from the USPTO website projected from a transparency on a screen (measurements taken from the image on the screen) reveals different values for the radial outward projection of the protrusion. These values are 78% when compared against the thickness of the retainer at the location of the protrusion and 64% when compared against the thickness of the retainer at the distal edge of the retainer. Appellant submits that both of these measurements (i.e., 64% and 78%) are significantly greater than the 15-30% of the claims. Thus, the Primary Examiner is in error to argue that FIG. 15 of the '652 Sollami Patent addresses the claims.

Second, a careful review reveals that FIG. 15 illustrates the retainer body in cross-section and the protrusion (31) is not in cross-section. In this regard, a reproduction of

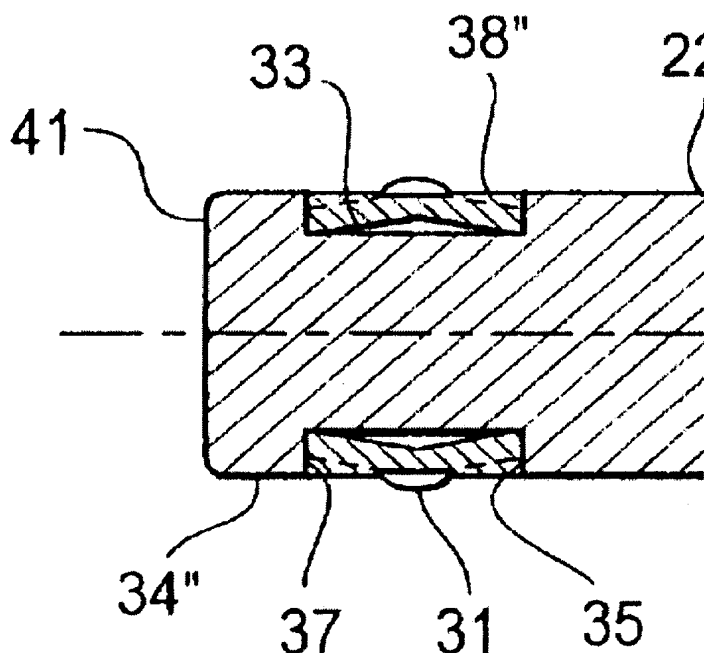


FIG. 15 is set forth above. This is in contrast to a drawing such as FIG. 5 of U.S. Patent No. 4,484,783 to Emmerich (of record in this case) shows both the retainer body and dimple in

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-11-

cross-section.

Basic drafting principles establish that since the protrusion (31) of FIG. 15 is not shown in cross-section, it must be rotated away from the section line. What this means is that the extent of the radial outward projection of protrusion is actually greater than what FIG. 15 shows. Since there is no description as to the extent of the rotation, there is no way to accurately determine the extent of the radial outward projection. This is a fundamental flaw in the Primary Examiner's use of FIG. 15 from Sollami.²

Further, a careful look at an enlarged version of FIG. 15 shows that the retainer sleeve (38'') is somewhat arcuate and is of a generally constant thickness. The fact that retainer sleeve 38'' is of a generally constant thickness is consistent with the illustrations of sleeves 38 and 38' in FIGS. 3 and 3A, as well as the broken lines of each surface of the retainer shows that retainer sleeve 38'' is of a generally consistent thickness. An enlarged view of the rear portion of the tool (10'') of FIG. 15 establishes that the thickness is generally consistent.

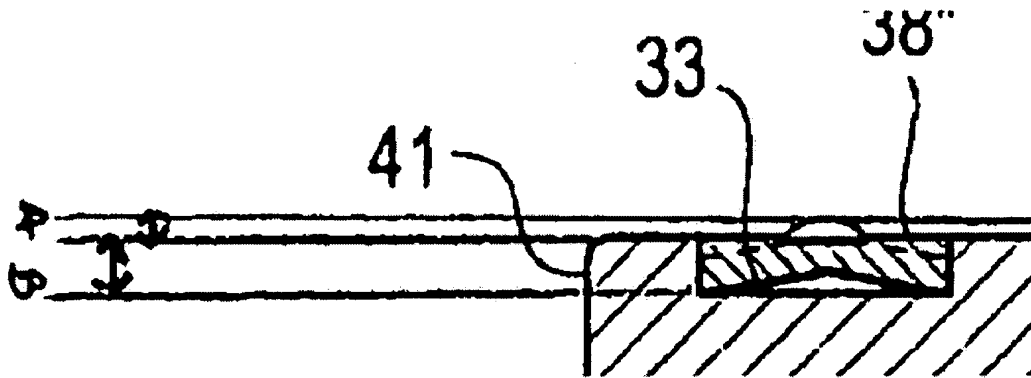
As shown by the enlargement of the Primary Examiner's marked-up copy of FIG. 15 (see below), the Primary Examiner takes a measurement such that the thickness of

² Since the protrusion of FIG. 15 is rotated away from the section line, the extent of the radial outward projection of protrusion is actually greater than what is shown in FIG. 15, and hence, more strongly supports appellant's argument that the '652 Sollami Patent cannot address the 15-30% claim limitation of the pending claims.

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-12-



the retainer (dimension “b” in the attachment to the Office Action) is equal to the depth of the groove (33).³ This is inconsistent with the drawing that shows broken lines as representing the surface of the retainer. To the extent that a measurement of the thickness of the retainer is proper, a measurement of the thickness dimension “b” should be taken to correspond to the thickness of the retainer as shown by the broken lines and not to the depth of the groove.

Assuming that the measurement of the drawing carries weight, applicant respectfully submits that the Primary Examiner’s position regarding FIG. 15 lacks merit because it is based on an inaccurate construction of the drawing of Sollami,

Conclusion

Appellant submits that claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-40 and 43-47 are not anticipated under 35 USC §102(e) by the ‘652 Sollami patent. It is clear that the ‘652 Sollami Patent does not address the 15-30% claim limitation of the independent claims under rejection. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons advanced in support of their respective

³ If a retainer has a thickness equal to the depth of the groove, the retainer would not have the ability to retract and then expand wherein the protrusion engages the interior channel in the bore of the holder.

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-13-

independent claims. Appellant solicits the reversal of this rejection and a remand to the patent examiner with instructions to allow the claims.

Rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47
under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent
No. 6,397,652 to Sollami citing *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233

The Primary Examiner has rejected claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) over Sollami. The Primary Examiner admits that Sollami, "... is silent about the thickness ratio between the dimple and the sleeve being between 15-30%, ...". See page 4 of the pending Office Action. However, the Primary Examiner then argues that:

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sollami to have/include the above mentioned limitations, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Applicant strongly disagrees with the Primary Examiner's assessment that it would have been obvious to modify the 64%-78%-88.9% projection disclosed in FIG. 15 of Sollami by decreasing the extent of the projection to between the claimed 15%-30%.

The *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955) case concerned a chemical process claim for the production of phenol and acetone wherein the reference disclosed a similar process, except for a higher operating temperature and a lower acidity. The focus of the *In re Aller* decision was on a chemical process, "[N]ormally, it is to be expected that a change in temperature, or in concentration, or in both, would be an unpatentable modification." *Supra* at 235. The opinion went on to say that, "[A]ny chemist reading the article could logically assume that higher yields might be obtainable, and by experimentally varying the conditions of temperature and acidity could find the most productive conditions.

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-14-

... The skilled chemist who chose to experiment with the reference process would undoubtedly try the conditions defined by the claims.” Supra at 237.

Here, applicant submits that it is not a certain logical conclusion when looking at Sollami that one of ordinary skill in the art would take the Sollami retainer and shorten the protrusions. The focus of Sollami is on the cold forming of a tool body. The only apparent mention of a retainer with protrusions is at Col. 6, lines 48-61, which describes FIG. 15 (a tool that is prior art to Sollami). There does not appear to be any suggestion about reducing the extent of the radial outward projection of the protrusions.

The Primary Examiner has failed to provide any evidence of any motivation whatsoever that would cause one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the dimples of FIG. 15 by reducing the extension thereof a significant amount of the original length. It is only through the applicant’s specification that there comes the suggestion to shorten the extension of the dimples relative to the thickness of the retainer. However, to use the specification to formulate the obviousness rejection is classic hindsight reasoning that cries out for the removal of these rejections. Appellant submits that these rejections find their basis in hindsight⁴, and not in fact, and request the Board to reverse these rejections. The simple fact is that the ‘652 Sollami Patent does not render obvious the claims under rejection because it does not disclose or suggest the 15-30% claim limitation.

⁴ Appellant submits that it is clear that it is improper for the Primary Examiner to use hindsight reasoning to essentially modify Sollami by reducing the radial outward extension of the protrusions. See MPEP 2141.01 III, page 2100-118 (Rev. 5, August 2006); MPEP 2143.01, page 2100-127 (Rev. 5, August 2006); Alza Corp. v. Mylan Labs., 464 F.3d 1286 (Fed. Cir. 2006); Dystar Textilfarben GmbH v. C.H. Patrick Co., 464 F.3d 1356 (Fed. Cir. 2006). Further, appellant submits that the very recent United States Supreme Court decision in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex, Inc., 550 U.S. ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (April 30, 2007) cannot be cited to justify the impermissible use of hindsight in the formulation of an obviousness rejection. In KSR, the United States Supreme Court wrote that, “[A] factfinder should be aware, of course, of the distortion caused by hindsight bias and must be cautious of arguments reliant upon *ex post* reasoning.” See 82 USPQ2d at page 1397.

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-15-

**Rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under
 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652 to
 Sollami citing *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980)**

The Primary Examiner has rejected claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) over Sollami. The Primary Examiner admits that Sollami, "... is silent about the thickness ratio between the dimple and the sleeve being between 15-30%, ...". See page 4 of the pending Office Action. However, the Primary Examiner then argues that:

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sollami to have/include the above mentioned limitations, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

This rejection is along the lines of the above rejection from Paragraph 5 of the final Office Action of February 8, 2007 so that similar arguments, which focus on the claimed 15-30% limitation, apply. More specifically, in the *In re Boesch* decision, the claims were directed to a Co-Cr-Ni with an N_v value below a specific limit to unexpectedly avoid the formation of an embrittling phase (i.e., sigma phase). At 205 USPQ 219, the CCPA wrote:

In the above-quoted passage from '838, we note that lowering the N_v value of Co-Cr-Ni alloy and deletion of the metals not consumed in precipitation from the N_v calculation are expressly suggested. Considering, also, that the composition requirements of the claims and the cited references overlap, we agree with the Solicitor that the prior art would have suggested "the kind of experimentation necessary to achieve the claimed composition, including the proportional balancing described by appellant's N_v equation." This accords

In re Application of OJANEN)
 Serial No. 09/838,348)
 Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-16-

with the rule that discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art. [citations omitted].

Here, there are no references along the lines of those in the In re Boesch case. In this case, there is no suggestion in Sollami to reduce the radial outward projection of the dimples from the surface of the retainer to fall within the 15-30% range. Assuming that a measurement of the drawing even has value, Sollami does not disclose a range that overlaps the claimed range of 15-30%. Thus, the key factors cited by the CCPA in In re Boesch to support its conclusion that the prior art would have suggested experimentation to arrive at an optimum value of a result effective variable are absent in this case. Appellant submits that the rationale of In re Boesch cannot support the present obviousness rejection, and solicits the reversal of this rejection. The simple fact is that the '652 Sollami Patent does not render obvious the claims under rejection because it does not disclose or suggest the 15-30% claim limitation.

**Rejection of claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under
 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,652
 to Sollami citing *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955)**

The Primary Examiner has rejected claims 15-17, 29-30, 32-34, 36-40 and 43-47 under 35 USC §103(a) over Sollami. The Primary Examiner admits that Sollami, "... is silent about the thickness ratio between the dimple and the sleeve being between 15-30%, ...". See page 4 of the pending Office Action. However, the Primary Examiner then argues that:

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sollami to have/include the above mentioned limitations, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as

-17-

⁵ Appellant refers the Board to the discussion found at pages 13-16 of the Response to Non-Final Office Action of July 26, 2004 mailed on November 8, 2004 in this prosecution. This discussion points out the importance of the limits to the range of 15%-30% wherein these limits are performance-oriented.

In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348)
Filed: April 19, 2001)

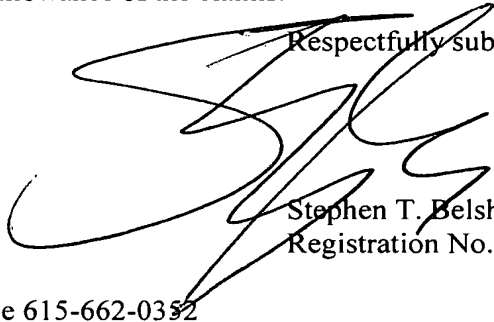
APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-18-

CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully submits that the pending rejections lack merit for the reasons set forth above. Appellant requests that the Board reverse the Examiner and remand the application back to the Examiner for allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NO. 1400

August 8, 2007

-19-

The claims under appeal are set forth below:

29. A retainer for use in conjunction with a cutting tool, said retainer comprising:

In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348)
Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-20-

a retainer sleeve carried by the cutting tool and including a radially outward projecting dimple;

wherein said retainer sleeve has a cylindrical circumference and a thickness dimension:

the amount of radial projection of said dimple beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer sleeve is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of said retainer sleeve.

30. A retainer according to claim 29, wherein said retainer sleeve includes a plurality of said dimples equally spaced relative to one another about the circumference of said retainer sleeve.

32. A cutting tool assembly according to claim 15 wherein said dimple extends between about .007 – .020 inches beyond an exterior cylindrical surface of said retainer sleeve.

33. A cutting tool assembly according to claim 17 wherein said dimple has a diameter of between about .06 - .10 inches.

34. A cutting tool assembly according to claim 17 wherein said retainer sleeve has a plurality of said dimples.

36. A retainer according to claim 29 wherein said dimple extends between about .007 – .020 inches beyond an exterior cylindrical surface of said retainer sleeve.

-21-

the amount of radial projection of said protruding surface beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer sleeve is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of said retainer sleeve.

In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348)
Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-22-

43. A generally cylindrical retainer for use in conjunction with a cutting tool, said retainer comprising:

a retainer sleeve carried by the cutting tool and including at least two radially outward projecting dimples;

wherein said retainer sleeve has a central longitudinal axis and a thickness dimension, and all of said at least two dimples are generally located within a common radial plane;

the amount of radial projection of each one of said at least two dimples beyond the cylindrical surface of the retainer sleeve is between about 15 percent and about 30 percent of the thickness dimension of said retainer sleeve,

wherein said retainer sleeve is constructed from steel.

44. A retainer according to claim 43 wherein said at least two dimples extend between about .007 - .020 inches beyond an exterior cylindrical surface of said retainer sleeve.

45. A retainer according to claim 44 wherein each one of said at least two dimples has a diameter of between about .06 - .10 inches.

46. A retainer according to claim 29 wherein said retainer sleeve has an endface, and a bottom end, wherein a slit extends from said bottom end to said endface.

47. A retainer according to claim 40 wherein said retainer sleeve has an endface, and a bottom end, wherein a slit extends from said bottom end to said endface.

In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348)
Filed: April 19, 2001)

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR §41.37

-23-

EVIDENCE APPENDIX UNDER 37 CFR §41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no evidence under Sections 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132 that appellant intends to rely upon in this appeal.

In re Application of OJANEN)
Serial No. 09/838,348)
Filed: April 19, 2001)

-24-

There are no related proceedings.